

# Maine Public Broadcasting Network a Pioneer in Technology

**Breakthrough Made Possible by Funding from USDA Rural Development**



**Pictured from left to right: Steve Dunn, Television Producer, Maine Public Broadcasting Network; Gil Maxwell, Senior Vice President for Operations and Technology, Maine Public Broadcasting Network; and Michael W. Grondin, Business and Cooperative Programs Director, USDA Rural Development**

The staff at the Maine Public Broadcasting Network (MPBN) is excited about a new technology that will bring over a century of images and programs to our fingertips and revolutionize the way professors in classrooms across the state of Maine teach. The project is called "Windows on Maine" and it is the first of its kind. Through the web site, which is being customized by the staff of MPBN in partnership with the University of Maine Fogler Library, teachers and the general public can search and download the Network's television programs, and other historical data on Maine that has been collected. (An example is a letter to a Bangor resident signed by baseball legend Babe Ruth). The information can then be used to create a tailored presentation or report using scenes from "**Quest**," "**Home**," or other series produced by MPBN, and the historical source documents.

Maine Public Broadcasting Network has come a long way since its days in Alumni Hall at the University of Maine at Orono. Today MPBN serves 99 percent of Maine's population through its four studios. Now the 1.3 million Maine residents will have access to historical information through the new web-based program "Windows on Maine."

The project was made possible by USDA Rural Development, which has provided over \$6.1 million to MPBN through Rural Business Enterprise Television Demonstration Grants since 1993. Other MPBN programs supported by Rural Development funding include the television cooking show "What's for Suppah," which aired on the Network last year and the "Reaching Higher" to encourage college aspirations.

## Scenes from our Tour of Maine Public Broadcasting Network



**Maine Public Broadcasting Studios in Bangor**



**Gil Maxwell explains the equipment to Michael Grondin**



**This computer server was funded by a Rural Business Enterprise Television Demonstration Grant to host the programming content of the "Windows on Maine" web site.**



**Gil pulls a curtain in the studio back to reveal the set of "What's For Suppah," a television program supported by Rural Development funding**



Committed to the future of rural communities.